ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH

OF THE

CWMBRAN URBAN DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1945

BY

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCLUDING

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

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The Urban District Council of Cwmbran

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

For the year ending December 31st, 1945

CWMBRAN,
October, 1946

To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District Council of Cwmbran

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District. It is drawn up according to the directions of the Ministry of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area (in acres)	5,850
Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid-1944	11,500
Number of Inhabited Houses (end of 1945) according to the Rate Books ...	2,966
Rateable Value	£43,249
Sum represented by penny rate ...	£165

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The inhabitants of the district are mainly engaged in local industries, comprising chiefly Iron and Steel, Engineering, Aeroplane Components, Tin-Plate, Bricks and Biscuit Manufacture.

VITAL STATISTICS

	Total	Male	Female
LIVE BIRTHS — Legitimate	207	119	88
Illegitimate	8	4	4
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated Resident Population		...	18.7
Birth Rate of England and Wales 1945		...	16.6

	Total	Male	Female
STILL BIRTHS	5	2	3
Rate per 1,000 of Estimated Population		...	0.43

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS	141	74	67
Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population		...	12.3
ditto 1944		...	11.1
Death Rate for England and Wales 1945		...	11.4

MATERNAL MORTALITY

There were no deaths from Puerperal Causes.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

Twenty Infants died under the Age of one year.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	93
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Live Births	96.6
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	NIL
Deaths from Cancer (All Ages)	27
Measles (All Ages)	1
Whooping Cough (All Ages) ...	3
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1

The only unusual or excessive mortality occurred in Infants under one year, who were peculiarly susceptible to a severe bronchopneumonic infection which caused seven deaths at the end of the year. This factor together with high incidence of measles and whooping cough cases and ordinary causes, produced an infantile mortality figure more than double that of last year.

The incidence of other sickness was fairly normal during the year, but overcrowding due to housing shortage caused Scabies and kindred ailments to be rather prevalent.

GENERAL PROVISION OF THE HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. (i) *Public Health Officers.* The Staff consists of:—

(*a*) The Medical Officer of Health (a part time office).

The duties comprise attending Meetings of the Public Health Committee of the Council, and advising on matters of Public Health.

(*b*) The Sanitary Inspector, who also carries out the duties of Housing Inspector and Inspector of Foods. He holds the Certificate of the Sanitary Institute and his duties are laid down in the Sanitary Order, 1926.

2. *Laboratory Facilities*—Clinical material is examined, and water, milk and foodstuffs analysed at the County Laboratory, Newport. Full advantage is taken of this facility.

3. *Home Nursing*—The Nursing Association, which is affiliated with Mon. Nursing Association, is in a strong position and well supported by the people of the district. Excellent nursing service is rendered by two capable and efficient Nurses.

4. We have our own Ambulance, which is available (free) to all residents in the district, and also to people living outside who are connected with the works in the district. There is a full-time Driver.

5. *Treatment and Clinic Centres*—A maternity and child welfare clinic is held once a week in the district. School Clinics are held in Newport, under the control of the County Council, where treatment is provided for children suffering from enlarged tonsils, defective eyesight, defective teeth, orthopaedic conditions, etc. The Tuberculosis Clinic is held at Palmyra Place, Newport.

6. *Hospitals*—The district is well catered for by three General Hospitals just outside its boundaries. Cases of infectious disease are admitted to Isolation Hospitals in the County whenever necessary.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(*i*) The water supply is from your own Reservoir and augmented by supplies from the Newport Corporation. The former is chemically treated, filtered and chlorinated before distribution. The degree of hardness, Clarke's Scale, is Permanent 5.50, Temporary 7.0. A recent Analysis of a sample stated that chemically and bacteriologically the water was satisfactory.

There are still isolated houses in the area which derive their water supply from wells. Samples are periodically taken, and subjected to bacteriological examination.

The water supply for the year was generally adequate.

(ii) *Drainage and Sewerage*—The question of the laying and connecting up of Subsidiary Sewers in the area has been delayed, but will be commenced as soon as practicable.

(iii) *Rivers and Streams*—The district now being provided with an efficient sewerage system, the rivers and streams are becoming free from gross pollution.

(iv) The Council carry out the collection of refuse by means of a covered lorry or freighter, and the disposal is as before, viz., tipping in waste areas.

SANITARY INSPECTION

The number of inspections made during 1945 was 416.

These consisted of inspections for damp, structural defects and conditions arising from overcrowding.

The number of informal notices served was 123.

These notices were in most cases followed by the carrying out of the necessary repairs.

No action was taken during the year under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.

SWIMMING BATHS OR POOLS

There are no publicly or privately owned swimming baths or pools in your area.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

INFESTED HOUSES:

(*a*)	Council Houses ...	13	Disinfested ...	13	
(*b*)	Other Houses ...	27	Disinfested ...	27	

The method employed for disinfestation, vermicene spray.

SCHOOLS

The water supply and sanitary conditions of the public elementary schools situated in your district are generally satisfactory.

It was not found necessary to close the schools during the year on account of infectious diseases.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & BAKEHOUSES

179 inspections of Registered Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses were made during the year.

Sanitary defects found	27
Defects remedied	21
Informal Notices Served	7
Lack of Limewashing	2
Want of Cleanliness	0
Defective Closet Accommodation	5

In each case Informal Notices were complied with.

No Statutory Action was found necessary.

REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 79

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS

A—Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs ... 210

(ii) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices—

(*a*) By owners 130

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... —

B—Proceeding under Public Health Acts:—

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 83

(ii) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice—

(*a*) By owners 51

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners ... —

C—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(i) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made —

(ii) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders —

D—Proceedings under Sections 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

(i) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made —

(ii) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit —

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(*a*) *Milk Supply*—Inspection of cowsheds and dairies in the district were carried out in accordance with the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, and the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1923 and 1936.

The conditions of the cowsheds and dairies are on the whole satisfactory. Defects pointed out were rectified by the owners or occupiers. Samples of milk are taken from time to time and are mainly satisfactory.

(*b*) Chemical and Bacteriological examinations of Food—Laboratories of the County Council carry out this work.

UNSOUND FOODSTUFFS

All foodshops have been periodically inspected during the year.

The following unsound foodstuffs have been surrendered and destroyed:—

Tins of Milk	83
Tins of Meat	13
Tins of Fish	17
Meat (lbs.)	156
Butter (lbs)	26

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Diphtheria—No cases occurred during the year.

Further School immunisation was carried out, bringing the total number of children protected up to a fairly satisfactory figure.

Measles and Whooping Cough—332 and 74 cases respectively were notified. All were treated at home as were the Scarlet Fever cases which were all of a very mild type.

Tuberculosis—One case in your district has required to take advantage of the new allowance scheme.

Venereal Disease—Such cases brought to my notice have been singularly few and no more than in previous years.

Head Lice—Active Steps have been taken under the appropriate Health Act to compel a certain few to have disinfestation carried out.

Scabies—This condition unfortunately is still very prevalent and several children have been sent to special hostels for treatment.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR 1944

DISEASE	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted into Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	19	1	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid) ...	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Pneumonia	33	—	7
Erysipelas	—	—	—

AGE GROUP ANALYSIS

	Under 1 Yr.	1	2	3	4	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/60	Over 60
1. Scarlet Fever	—	1	—	1	1	10	3	2	1	—	—	—
2. Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
3. Pneumonia	21	—	—	—	—	0	—	3	—	—	9	—
4. Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS

New Cases and Mortality during 1945

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0
25	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
35	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
45	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
65 and Upwards	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
TOTALS	6	4	2	1	3	0	0	0

All known cases were notified.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES FLEMING.